

大学英语分级阅读丛书



华中理工大学出版社



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大 学 英 语
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大学英语分级阅读丛书

第三册

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内 容 提 要

本书为大学英语分级阅读丛书的第三册,它向读者介绍了流行音乐的兴起与发展,英国戏剧和电影业的一些发展情况,读后可使人了解许多有关这些方面的知识,加上地道的英语可使学语言的兴趣更浓。本书可供大学高年级的学生以及相同程度的读者阅读。

前 言

阅读是一种技能，掌握这种技能主要靠实践。正象学游泳一样，只谈理论，不去实践，是学不会游泳的。同样，要学会阅读，光讲理论，不去实践，也是学不会阅读的。

“多读”——这是许多人学外语的一条重要经验。要提高阅读速度和阅读理解能力，关键在于是否进行大量阅读。课堂阅读对熟悉阅读技巧固然重要，但要真正掌握这些技巧，还得靠精心设计的、大量的、独立的课外阅读。因此，一切有经验、有远见的教师，莫不鼓励学生进行大量阅读。

然而遗憾的是：在市面上学生很难找到称心如意的阅读材料。有的读物语言过难，读者望而生畏、敬而远之；有的读物故事陈旧，内容早已为读者所知晓，缺少时代性和新鲜感；有的读物由于文体与学生所希望阅读的不一样，因而有实用性和知识性不足之感；有的读物虽文体内容尚可，但由于是节选而成，东拼西凑，有头无尾，读来使人颇有不满足之感。

几年来我们一直希望能够解决这个问题。在寻找合适的大学英语课外阅读材料的时候，我们高兴地发现 Cassell 出版公司出版的一套分级读物。这套丛书避免了以上所说的种种缺点，集知识性、趣味性、实用性和时代性于一体。同时由于编者用词造句巧妙自然，因而读来毫无一般简易读物的不地道和非真实之感。因此说这是非英语国家学生的一套理想的英语课外读物，那是毫不夸张的。

为了适合我国文理工科大学生英语学习的需要，我系教师

浏览了这套丛书，并选出其中 15 本按难易程度编成与我国大学英语 1 至 4 级相符的四册阅读教材，增加了词汇和注解部分。我们相信：广大读者，特别是文理工科大学学生，一定会喜爱这套丛书的，因为它会扩大你的视野，丰富你的知识，使你体会到以英文为工具吸取新信息的那种由衷的喜悦之情。我相信你会在不知不觉中对英文阅读产生兴趣，同时你也会在不知不觉中提高了自己的阅读速度和阅读理解能力。

程恩洪

一九八九年六月

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Book One

The Pop Industry

Michael Carrier and Christine Evans

1

What is pop?

Pop music is not as modern as many people think. People have been making music and singing songs for thousands of years and at every time in history one type of music was more popular than the music of earlier times. Pop music is simply the music that is popular with a large number of people at a particular* time, although many people understand it to mean rock music, or rock and roll music — the music that has developed* in the last 25 years. But 'pop' is not only a type of music — it is also big business.

In the last 25 years, pop has grown into a very large international industry, employing* hundreds of thousands of people to create music, produce records, sell records, play records on the radio, make instruments and so on. The biggest part of the business is the selling of records. Across the world, music lovers spend around six billion pounds (£6,000,000,000,000) on records each year, most of which is spent in Britain, America, Japan and West Germany. The money goes to international record companies like EMI, RCA, Polydor, Warner Bros, or CBS, who each earn millions of pounds a year from the pop industry.

* = See Glossary.

New words are asterisked (*) the first time they occur only.

What is modern pop music? There are many different styles* of pop music popular with different groups of people. There is rock and roll music, the music from the 1950s, still played by Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. There is the pop music of The Beatles and other pop musicians* of the early 1960s, such as The Beach Boys. There are different types of black music: the soul* music of the 1960s, the disco* and reggae* sounds of the 1980s. There is the heavy rock music of the 1960s, played then by Deep Purple and still played by Status Quo, Rainbow and others. There is the traditional* English folk music, which developed into the electric folk music played by Fairport Convention or Steeleye Span. There is the traditional American folk music, which influenced* the music of singers like Bob Dylan or Joan Baez.

More recently, there is punk* rock — a very loud and simple type of rock music played by The Sex Pistols and The Stranglers and developing out of that, the New Wave music of The Police. All of these styles are still popular and the simple pop song, the song that everyone can sing or dance to, has been the most popular of all. Most of these different styles* are also popular internationally, so the same song may be number one in twenty or thirty different countries.

The industry that creates, produces and sells this pop music around the world is a very complicated one. It involves* the work of a variety of people and not only the musicians and singers who become famous. Often the agents* and managers and record producers will

remain unknown to people outside the pop industry but they are just as important in the process* of bringing records to the public and they may become just as rich as the stars themselves. This book will take a look at how the pop industry works.

2

The stars

Since the 1950s, most of the stars of pop music have come from Britain and America. However, in the last ten years, when many different kinds of music have established* themselves on the pop scene, more and more stars have come from other countries. One of the richest groups in the world is the Swedish group Abba, who have had number one hits in America, Australia and every European country. They sold 40 million records in 1976— more than anyone since The Beatles. For today, the pop business is very much an international one, and the financial* rewards are enormous. The top stars are millionaires*, often richer than film-stars, politicians or businessmen. Fleetwood Mac, for example, sold over 21 million copies of their album* 'Rumours' which is now the biggest-selling record in the industry's history.

Pop music changes all the time and new stars appear and become famous. Many of today's stars started out in the 1960s and have changed their music to suit* the times. Stars like Cliff Richard, Rod Stewart, Elton John and groups like The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd still have mass* audiences today, even though they began



The best selling LP of all time

performing ten years ago. This is unusual for the pop scene — although most stars take many years to become famous, their fame* does not usually last long. For a musician to stay popular and still produce good, original music over a long period of time, is a sign of a true star.

Most stars start their careers* in a simple way — playing in unknown nightclubs or dance-halls where people want to dance to the music, not listen to it. They may have to continue doing this for many years until they get a 'break'* — a chance to perform in a well-

known place or to get a recording contract. To become a star is the aim of every singer or musician and the dream of many a pop-crazy teenager.*

Not every star has had to wait years to find success. Soul star Stevie Wonder made his first record at the age of twelve and was an international star while he was a teenager. He is still one of the most respected singers in the world, as well as one of the richest. The Osmonds, the singing family, began their career very early. The younger members of the family — Donny, Marie and Jimmy, found fame and success before they finished school. Other groups and singers are very lucky and reach the top of the charts* with their first record. This first success may be repeated, so they become famous stars, or they may only be 'one record wonders' — those who make one successful record and are never heard of again.

Pop stars present themselves on stage in many different ways. Some are happy just to play their music and do not worry about how they look, arriving at concerts in their normal, everyday clothes. This is often true of 'heavy metal'* groups who consider their music to be the only important part of their performance. But many stars — especially soul and disco stars — dress in costumes* they have bought to wear on stage. These expensive costumes are often like uniforms — all the musicians wear the same clothes. This is the style that the fans* like — they want to experience a visual* as well as a musical show.

Punk rock groups, with their coloured hair and